

Springs Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
July 23, 2019

1. Call to Order: 6:34pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Chair Lely

Present: Paz, Conlan, Goldman, Lombard

Alternate: Wheatley

Excused: Vice Chair Iturri, Willett, Anderson

2. Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2019. Councilperson Paz moved to approve Minutes. Seconded by Councilperson Conlan. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

Cathy Wade Shepherd suggested item for future MAC meeting. Investors interested in Springs need support from community to inform/facilitate the County processes. MAC could help.

Larry Davis mentioned there is a MAC forming in Glen Ellen. Glen Ellen Forum part of planning process with goal for completion in fall. They are interested in collaborating with Springs MAC re planning/training process. Identified additional planning ongoing for Sonoma Developmental Center, General Plan update, Springs Specific Plan. Asked Council consider his idea for future agenda item, or other ways to collaborate and create an educational experience for future Valley leaders.

Greg, 140 Theodore Lane for 20 years, Aqua Caliente. Speaking for his neighborhood group. Concerned with increasing density of Vacation Rentals in their subdivision. 7-9 nearby. In the last 3 years, have experienced great disruption, especially on weekends. Deteriorating quality of life for neighbors. What can county do to better control the rentals?

Gayle Geary, 400 Mountain Avenue, first time attending meeting. Complained about neighborhood road conditions. Last year she fell in pot hole and broke her ankle. Repairs need to be a priority, roads are hazardous. They pay same taxes as City but don't seem to get repair work done.

Joel, Theodore Lane. 14 homes on Theodore, 4 are Vacation Rentals. Adjoining street similar numbers. Stated that the VRs are mostly owned by out of area investors.

Anna, Theodore Lane, 10 Vacation Rentals on 3 adjoining streets, have Google mapped it. Lived on Lane for 9 years, in Valley for 16. Works/volunteers in community. Upset that the VR owners are absentee landlords. Their neighborhood is caring and strong, they paid to have their road paved since County wouldn't. They want something to be done about the VRs.

Public Comment closed

4. TPW (Department of Transportation and Public Works) Presentation on Boyes Bridge Replacement Project

Chair Lely introduced Dan Virkstis, Public Affairs Program Manager County of Sonoma [Daniel.Virkstis@sonoma-county.org; 707 565 2992] Substitute for Johannes Hoevertsz, unable to attend.

Chair Lely reminded Council this would be a Q&A session, not approving/disapproving.

Dan responded to Public Comments about road conditions. Addressed Theodore Lane homeowners - there are many roads that are not County maintained which create problems. Regarding potholes – recommended request for repair be submitted online, SOCO Report, to generate a work request in their system, provides an automated response, allows tracking for county and residents from submission to completion. Addressed Gayle’s concerns on Mountain Ave., offered to check into it.

Presented Power Point on Boyes Bridge Replacement Project

Background: bridge built over Sonoma Creek in 1955, now considered seismically deficient. Met current standards then, no longer. One of 328 bridges in county. This project one of many major infrastructure projects going on.

Introduced Janice Thompson, engineer, Deputy Director of Maintenance and Engineering. Will report on design standards and regulations from Assoc. of Highway Officials and CALTRANS.

Dan: new bridge will be bigger, wider, with new lighting, sidewalks and shoulders for bike lanes. Community asked for bicycle and pedestrian access. County considers these requests for all roads, but some rural roads are too narrow to add bike lanes now.

Other bridge improvements: centerline realigned slightly to improve site distance around curve to make it safer.

Funded by combo of federal and county funds. Project extends from Riverside Drive to Mulberry.

Showed diagram of bridge side view, aerial view, shows how design is for a substantially safer bridge. (Public can get copy of slide presentation online)

Question: about where road curves. Will construction move that south?

Dan: curve near Creekside Café on west side. Realignment is on east side.

Chair Lely directed questions be held until end of presentation.

Dan: a TWO YEAR project, important to realize due to construction

inconveniences, road closures, etc. August/September [2019] start.

Year One: relocate utilities (Comcast, PGE) to a temporary pedestrian bridge to maintain pedestrian access. Some road closures, detours, shown on map.

Notifications made through street signage. Please advise if notices are not in place.

Asked attendees how many had received notice/letter from TPW department?

Most attendees replied. Pleased, as the department sent specifically to those to be impacted by construction.

Year Two: demolition of existing bridge, construction of new bridge, including improvements, relocation of utilities to permanent bridge.

Estimated completion by late 2020/2021. Hope to keep customary delays to minimum.

Diagram and Map of Detour and signage. Will be posted, and available in Spanish.

Chair Lely opened presentation to Council questions, to be followed by Public Comment.

Councilperson Goldman, any specific road closure time frame estimates?

Timetables? Reports from community saying they are not getting notices.

Dan: acknowledged need for estimates, it is a massive scale project, will update as process goes forward. He will be a contact, plus the contractor. Relies on road signage for wide scale notification. Did a full scale postal notice in spite of expense. Public can sign up for road closure notices online. Working with SIT on informing the public as a public service.

Councilperson Conlan, who were notices sent to? Dan, 7,000 residents within the impacted area. A one mile radius from site. Councilperson Conlan, during Hwy 12 work, utility boxes were moved around. Will this box go in small triangular park?

Dan, unsure, will get answer. PGE needed to relocate pole to string utilities to temporary pedestrian bridge. Councilperson Conlan, concerned about best placement for boxes. **CORRECTION 9/5/19: Councilperson Conlan requested clarification on statement. Point was to NOT put utility boxes in small park.**

Chair Lely, what about condition of roads to be used for detour traffic? Dan, corrective maintenance (pot holing, roadside ditching, drainage issues) or preservation not scheduled for this project. Janice Thompson/TPW engineer, Agua Caliente between Sonoma Creek and Hwy 12 scheduled for summer work, should be completed prior to bridge work. Chair Lely, can motorists expect access with detours? Will other road maintenance be evaluated later? Janice, federal funding for bridge only. Other roads under county plan. Chair Lely, what will railing be like? Janice, needs to check plan but has concrete bottom. Verano sidewalks different, were added later. Chair Lely, how will public be notified of delays, detours, closures? Dan, on site will be message boards, road closure

signage. Could be rolling closures, close one lane at a time, rather than detour. Depend on community partners to stay informed. Chair Lely, rolling closures will be used? Motorists able to go through Boyes Blvd.? Dan, in Year One there will be a mix. During construction of temporary pedestrian bridge there will be access but then there will be full road closure.

Councilperson Lombard, which side of existing bridge will get pedestrian walkway? Dan, north side. Creekside Café on east side.

Councilperson Paz, concerned about many schools, parents and kids getting notices. Three other street restoration plans happening, are those timelines staggered with bridge placement? Dan, will note other three projects and find out how to mitigate.

Councilperson Conlan, also concerned about school schedules, including bus stops, 2-3 bus schedules. And what are construction hours? Dan, normally 8-5, sometimes 8-3. Janice, Fridays end at 3. But prefer to extend when traffic control is set up. Can work 7-7.

Councilperson Goldman, are there contract provisions/penalties to encourage meeting the deadlines. Janice, no.

Chair Lely, who is the Contractor? Janice, Gordon Ball.

Chair Lely opened Public Comment, 3 minute limit

Cathy Wade Shepherd, owns property on Riverside since 2003, knew bridge project was coming, didn't know when. Community needs to pay attention to notices.

Laurie Glover, Agua Caliente, speaking for neighbors re speeding problems on AC. With an increase in traffic more concerns. Will there be provisions for additional monitoring?

Dan replied they have spent a lot of time educating AC residents re speeding. Have been monitoring signage, lighting, radar feedback signs, possibly the project may temper the speeding. Flaggers, signage typically at location of closure, not on detour routes. Will be observing other streets too.

Anna Cole, roundabout on Arnold at Agua Caliente is a death trap. No one stops in either direction. Used as a Hwy 12 bypass. People speed up. Concerned about increased problem with bridge project.

Susan Gorin, just received email about roundabout, is concerned. Need Town Hall meetings on the subject. With Boyes Blvd closure more traffic on Aqua

Caliente. Remind everyone to please slow down. Suggested the discussion conclude, have Dan and Janice return next month. Expressed gratitude to them for their presentation and work.

Chair Lely, called for conclusion to discussion of Boyes Bridge project.

5. Conclusion of Study Session – Facilitated by Oscar Chavez and Kellie Noe of Sonoma County Health and Human Services.

Chair Lely, today's focus is Priorities and Goals. Breaking into smaller groups for interactive brainstorming.

Kellie Noe began Session, directed Council and audience to gather at tables.

Goal for tonight: develop a shorter list of Priorities and Goals for next six months to a year. Then decide on specific action steps.

Presented Power Point: RECAP

- Purpose and Authority of MAC, to use for criteria to establish priorities and goals. Liz Hamon consolidated the previous meeting's questions and answers into a resource packet. "**Springs MAC Goals & Priorities V.2 6/24/19**" to be available online. New questions can be added to document. Use it ongoing.
- Structures of all the MACs in County; two in Sup. Hopkins' district, three in Sup. Gorin's
- Mission Statement
Springs Municipal Advisory Council represents the people of the Springs and Sonoma Valley and is the voice of the community to elected representatives. Springs MAC is committed to engaging with all community members in meaningful and inclusive ways to promote the health and well-being of the Springs.
- Prioritizing short and long term goals, taking action, e.g. how to implement an outreach campaign

Criteria Defined:

Population + a geographic area + a condition of well-being = Who, Where, What

S.M.A.R.T. GOALS = Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time bound

Mission Statement

Purpose/Authority as reference point

First Exercise: Imagine ten years from now, walking down street, a reporter comes up asks how Springs MAC was created. What were your goals and action steps?

Second Exercise: Using Criteria, Ad Hoc committee's draft list, new ideas, to choose 3 top short term goals, achievable in six months to a year. Next, pick a partner and select top three goals. Next, write summary of three goals on large post it, for viewing on wall.

Next, group discussion of sample/suggested goals:

- Partnering in community
- Educate MAC and community about development and planning, understanding

ongoing transit system projects, focused on short term goals, emphasize plans/process; smooth pedestrian and vehicular surfaces/repaving roads

- Community engagement/outreach plan, include businesses and residents, recognize there are different needs
- Changing Springs MAC members to elected rather than appointed. MAC could have conversation with County Counsel or Clerk. Not advising BoS, need to understand expense and complexity of voting by entire community. Possible long term goal for self-governance and incorporation. The 2 year terms will be ending. Staggering of terms not the issue.
- Produce multicultural community events, create spaces, community-wide street fair, identify plaza site. An event needs long term planning, to achieve community pride, like the Farmers Market. One goal is creating a space and the other is programming a space. Creating a space could accomplish both. Engage businesses to invite people in. Frame and develop as kick off a community engagement event that is achievable by committee, then build momentum. Supervisor Gorin, may be outside resources to help, i.e. Economic Development Board, Marcos J. Suarez Program Manager (707) 565-6402 Marcos.Suarez@sonoma-county.org, already in dialog with Springs' businesses. Make a plan with a timeline, be medium to long term goal.

FOUR MAIN GOALS, narrowed

1. Community outreach and engagement; businesses and residents
2. Education: MAC & community; development and planning; transportation challenges; process to get MAC elected
3. Community kick off engagement, in six months to year
4. Begin process to identify plaza site/develop a plan

Comments: Supervisor Gorin, where should plaza be? Councilperson Conlan, ideally the lot across from SMI, also possibly making it bigger, with a satellite on Mountain Rd., was in original Redevelopment Plan. Supervisor Gorin, make a MAC/community meeting to discuss this. There is funding to construct a plaza and/or a parklette. Use Springs map. Springs Specific Plan has info, could be part of this discussion. Councilperson Goldman, create a Springs cultural and arts center next to plaza.

Kellie acknowledged point in time for meeting closure.

Final question: Do these four goals fit the established criteria?

MAC: Yes.

Kellie summarized steps for next session: Identify – goal Performance Measures, partners, and challenges. Choose action steps. Create a Work Plan. All meetings need to include updates/reports. Build this into Planning Process. At end of year an evaluation process/report to community.

Supervisor Gorin, could they provide an example of process using incentive sheet?

Oscar, could take one Goal and work with it.

Agreement.

Councilperson Lombard requested list of goals and notes.

Kellie, will send notes with sample goal.

Chair Lely recommended resolution to receive feedback from Oscar and Kellie before finalizing/activating Goals and Priorities. Agreement.

6. Community Event Announcements

Liz, event Friday [July 26th] at La Luz, meet with new Director of Economic Development Board - Sheba Person-Whitley. Open session, then tour of Springs. 8:30am – 10am. Everyone invited. RSVP to Liz. Supervisor Gorin, good opportunity to listen and learn re: Springs, SDC, functions of Economic Development Board which is research arm for County. Chair Lely, will refer to Education Committee.

Councilperson Conlan, attended Springs Community Alliance (SCA) meeting, heard Committees Reports. Next meeting Monday 6pm [July 29] at Community Health Ctr. Goal: how SCA will work with MAC. Supervisor Gorin, invited Councilperson Conlan to bring report to MAC.

Councilperson Paz, Saturday, Aug 10th event at Sonoma Valley Health Center, *Back to School Fair*, goal of 750 free backpacks for kids, from local community resources, Junior College, could be an outreach day for MAC. 10am to 1pm. Alta Mira Middle School.

7. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

Chair Lely, August - Goals and Priorities.

September – possible hotel project on Verano at former Splash site, discussion only, not land use. Was a recent meeting at FAHA. Well attended, discussed various components, including affordable housing.

Councilperson Goldman, TPW return with Dan how to increase community outreach. Put info on NextDoor, for Sept. or Oct. to increase community attendance. Also address complaints re vacation rentals; need to educate public re exclusionary zone, process.

Supervisor Gorin, all excellent suggestions. TPW busy so start scheduling informational meetings to help community with process. Mentioned she can also meet with people privately.

Councilperson Conlan, agendize how to better understand the permitting process. Would July 26th La Luz, EDB meeting cover this? Supervisor Gorin, no, permitting is another topic. Friday EDB is about economic opportunities, code enforcement, resource management, General Plan. Select and schedule educational opportunity for next MAC meeting.

Chair Lely, yes, review list of strategic departments for a presentation. Noted he will be absent for August meeting. Maite Iturri will Chair.

Councilperson Lombard, need someone to greet people as they come in, make them feel more

welcome, get their contact info, and encourage to stay for rest of meeting and come back. Note their topic/s of interest and direct to Susan and Liz for answers. Lost opportunity with Theodore Lane group tonight re vacation rentals. Supervisor Gorin, agreed, suggested a volunteer, provide MAC info, use a sign-up sheet.

8. Meeting Adjourned unanimously at 8:51

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of

Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A1, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.

Web Links: County of Sonoma: www.sonoma-county.org select Boards and Commissions

City of Sonoma: www.sonomacity.org select Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission